

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 11-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended to correct informalities, the Abstract is replaced with a new Abstract, claim 3 is canceled, claims 1, 4 and 15 are amended, and claims 18-25 are added.

Paragraph 11 of the Office Action indicates that the Examiner reviewed claim 9 as filed in the original specification. However, on November 9, 2001 a Preliminary Amendment was filed canceling both claims marked 9 and adding new claims 16 and 17. A copy of this Amendment is attached.

Applicants appreciate the Office Actions indication that claims 3, 5-8 and 10 contain allowable subject matter.

I. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the Abstract. The Abstract is replaced with a substitute Abstract. The specification is amended to correct an informality.

II. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claim 15. Claim 15 has been amended to obviate this objection.

III. The Drawings Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the drawings. The position restricting member 210 is shown in Fig. 20(b). Furthermore, the specification discloses the restricting member 210, at page 82, lines 7-12.

The features of claim 15 are shown in Figs. 23(a)-(b) and are discussed at page 88, line 23 through page 89, line 1. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,778,287 to Yu, claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yu and further in view of U.S. Patent

No. 5,899,603 to Markovics, claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yu in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,017,291 to Pfleger, and claims 11, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP2001265165A to Noguchi et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 9, these rejections are moot. With respect to claim 1, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Thus, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 11, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP2001-26516A. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The application claims priority of JP2001-281921 filed September 17, 2001 as well as JP2001-157835 filed May 25, 2001. These priority documents antedate the publication date of Noguchi, September 28, 2001. A certified translation of each of the priority documents is attached hereto. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Claims 11-15 Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 recites, a plurality of endless-shaped flat belts having a plurality of through holes along a travel direction thereof, the plurality of endless-shaped flat belts superimposed with each other under a state that said through holes coincide with each other; and a rotation member having a plurality of projections to which said through holes of said plural flat belts are fitted.

Fig. 22B clearly shows through holes 130 of flat belts 411 and 412 coinciding. This feature is discussed in the specification at page 87, lines 17-20. Furthermore, pulley projections 140 are disclosed in Fig. 22A and are discussed on page 87, lines 21-24.

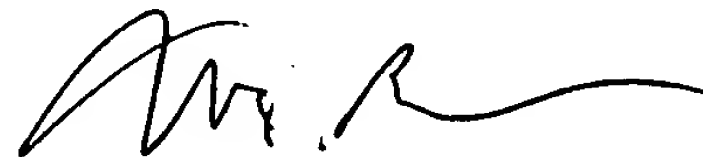
With respect to claim 15, the features of claim 15 are discussed on page 88, line 23 through page 89, line 1.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Registration No. 27,075

Michael Britton
Registration No. 47,260

JAO:MB/gew

Attachments:

Substitute Abstract
Copy of Preliminary Amendment
Translation of Priority Documents

Date: November 5, 2003

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

B3
~~A plurality of columns of through holes 3 are formed in at least one of flat belts 1 along a travel direction thereof and a plurality of columns of projections 4 fitting to the through holes 3 of the flat belt 1 are provided on at least one of tension members 2 over which the flat belt 1 is worn, along a rotation direction thereof.~~ An image forming apparatus including a drive source for producing driving force; an image carrier driven by said driving force; and a driving force transmission apparatus for transmitting the driving force produced by said drive source to said image carrier, wherein the driving force transmission apparatus includes a first endless-shaped flat belt having a plurality of through holes along a travel direction thereof; and a rotation member having a plurality of projections to which said plural through holes of the first flat belt are fitted.



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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of

Kiichiroh IJIMA; Mamoru KIDO

Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: November 9, 2001

Docket No.: 111085

For: DRIVING FORCE TRANSMISSION APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING
APPARATUS USING THE SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel both occurrences of claim 9 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add new claims 16 and 17 as follows:

--16. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image carrier is a plurality of image carriers.--

--17. The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said driving force transmission apparatus has an apparatus for transferring driving force from the drive source to a first image carrier and an apparatus for transferring driving force from said drive source to a second image carrier.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 11-17 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, both occurrences of Claim 9 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 16 and 17 are added to compensate for the material deleted from both occurrences of Claim 9. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
COPY

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Date: November 9, 2001

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